CLAIMS

1. A method for providing network management in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the method comprising:

receiving from at least one of a first access point and a first switch, a first messaging protocol message containing quality of service (QoS) information;

responsive to said first messaging protocol message, determining at least a minimum QoS level for operation of at least one of said first switch, said first access point, a second access point, and a second switch; and

distributing QoS information corresponding to said determined at least a minimum QoS level to at least one of said first switch, said first access point, said second access point and said second switch, using a second messaging protocol message.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising providing access to at least one of a plurality access devices based on said distributed QoS information.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising queuing traffic associated with at least one of said plurality of access devices to maintain said determined at least a minimum QoS level.

4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising prioritizing said traffic associated with at least one of said plurality of access devices to maintain said determined at least a minimum QoS level.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising scheduling access by at least one of said plurality of access devices to at least one of said first and said second access points.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said distributing further comprises distributing said QoS information to at least a portion of the hybrid wired/wireless local area network.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising allocating bandwidth to maintain said at least a minimum QoS level.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising balancing a load on at least one of said first switch, said first access point, said second access point and said second switch to maintain said at least a minimum QoS level.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein each of said first and second messaging protocol messages comprises at least one message selected from the group consisting of an access point status message, access point configuration message, a switch status message, a switch configuration message, a client status message and a device discovery message.

10. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having at least one code section for providing network management in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the at least one code section executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps comprising:

receiving from at least one of a first access point and a first switch, a first messaging protocol message containing quality of service (QoS) information;

responsive to said first messaging protocol message, determining at least a minimum QoS level for operation of at least one of said first switch, said first access point, a second access point, and a second switch; and

distributing QoS information corresponding to said determined at least a minimum QoS level to at least one of said first switch, said first access point, said second access point and said second switch, using a second messaging protocol message.

11. The machine-readable storage according to claim 10, further comprising code for providing access to at least one of a plurality access devices based on said distributed QoS information.

12. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code for queuing traffic associated with at least one of said plurality of access devices to maintain said determined at least a minimum QoS level.

13. The machine-readable storage according to claim 12, further comprising code for prioritizing said traffic associated with at least one of said plurality of access devices to maintain said determined at least a minimum QoS level.

14. The machine-readable storage according to claim 10, further comprising code for scheduling access by at least one of said plurality of access devices to at least one of said first and said second access points.

15. The machine-readable storage according to claim 10, wherein said distributing further comprises code for distributing said QoS information to at least a portion of the hybrid wired/wireless local area network.

16. The machine-readable storage according to claim 10, further comprising code for allocating bandwidth to maintain said at least a minimum QoS level.

17. The machine-readable storage according to claim 10, further comprising code for balancing a load on at least one of said first switch, said first access point, said second access point and said second switch to maintain said at least a minimum QoS level.

18. The machine-readable storage according to claim 18, wherein each of said first and second messaging protocol messages comprises at least one message selected from the group consisting of an access point status message, access point configuration message, a switch status message, a switch configuration message, a client status message and a device discovery message.

19. A system for providing network management in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the system comprising:

at least one receiver adapted to receive from at least one of a first access point and a first switch, a first messaging protocol message containing quality of service (QoS) information;

at least one controller adapted to determine at least a minimum QoS level for operation of at least one of said first switch, said first access point, a second access point, and a second switch in response to said first messaging protocol message; and

said at least one controller adapted to distribute QoS information corresponding to said determined at least a minimum QoS level to at least one of said first switch, said first access point, said second access point and said second switch, using a second messaging protocol message.

20. The system according to claim 19, wherein said at least one controller is further adapted to provide access to at least one of a plurality access devices based on said distributed QoS information.

21. The system according to claim 20, wherein said at least one controller is further adapted to queue traffic associated with at least one of said plurality of access devices to maintain said determined at least a minimum QoS level.

22. The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one controller is further adapted to prioritize said traffic associated with at least one of said plurality of access devices to maintain said determined at least a minimum QoS level.

23. The system according to claim 19, wherein said at least one controller is further adapted to schedule access by at least one of said plurality of access devices to at least one of said first and said second access points.

24. The system according to claim 19, wherein said at least one controller is further adapted to distribute said QoS information to at least a portion of the hybrid wired/wireless local area network.

25. The system according to claim 19, wherein said at least one controller is further adapted to allocate bandwidth to maintain said at least a minimum QoS level.

26. The system according to claim 19, wherein said at least one controller is further adapted to balance a load on at least one of said first switch, said first access point, said second access point and said second switch to maintain said at least a minimum QoS level.

27. The system according to claim 26, wherein each of said first and second messaging protocol messages comprises at least one message selected from the group consisting of an access point status message, access point configuration message, a switch status message, a switch configuration message, a client status message and a device discovery message.